



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## Summit Achieves Commitments to Prevent Nuclear Terror

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Obama administration national security officials say the April 12–13 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington succeeded not only in increasing international recognition of the shared threat from nuclear terrorism, but also resulted in concrete actions and decisions from the participants, ranging from increasing the security of nuclear materials and expertise to reducing the availability of highly enriched

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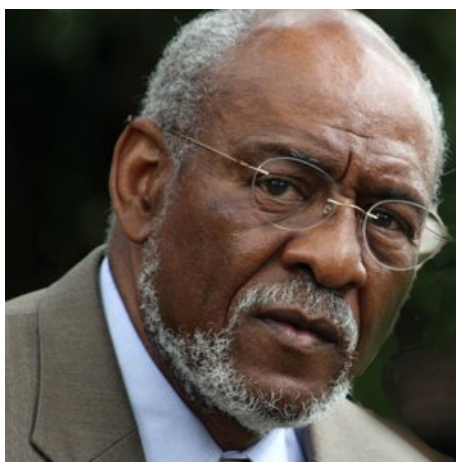


*Summit participants are already taking action, including with the U.S.-Argentine Megaports agreement to prevent nuclear smuggling.*

## Assistant Secretary Carson Travels to Africa

**Washington** — The U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Ambassador Johnnie Carson, is traveling to France, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Kingdom April 8–19, the State Department has announced.

Carson begins his trip in Paris, where he will deliver a speech to the French-American Foundation Sym-



*Assistant Secretary Johnnie Carson.*

posium. The topic of the speech, according to the State Department announcement, will be transnational security challenges in Africa. The assistant secretary will also meet with a number of senior French officials while in the French capital.

Upon departing from Paris, Carson will

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## Summit Achieves Commitments to Prevent Nuclear Terror . . .

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uranium and plutonium.

At the summit's conclusion April 13, Gary Samore, the senior White House coordinator for weapons-of-mass-destruction counterterrorism and arms control, Laura Holgate, the senior director for WMD terrorism and threat reduction, and Ben Rhodes, deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, spoke to reporters about the summit's accomplishments.

The summit communiqué ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/April/20100413171855eaifas0.6155773.html> ) embraces the goal of securing all of the world's vulnerable nuclear materials within four years ( <http://www.america.gov/st/nonprolif-english/2010/April/20100413190624SblebahC0.5954096.html> ), which President Obama called for in an April 2009 speech ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/April/20090406115740eaifas0.9701763.html> ) in Prague.

Samore said the two-day gathering removed lingering doubts among some countries over the seriousness of the nuclear terror threat, resulting in a strong agreement that "the threat is serious enough to justify the kind of resources needed to solve the problem."

The participants also agreed that "the solution to the threat is actually pretty simple," he said. Just as governments and private companies know how to provide physical protection for valuables such as gold reserves, they can also provide similar high-level protection for supplies of plutonium and highly enriched uranium (HEU).

"The exact solution may differ from

country to country," Samore said, depending on whether countries choose to eliminate their fissile material, or put the resources and programs in place to ensure it is well protected and accounted for.

The summit's work plan ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/April/20100413182810ihecuor0.8188702.html> ) identified existing international agreements and resources that are available to countries as they work to secure or eliminate their stockpiles.

Holgate said individual countries have been asked to join existing global initiatives, as well as to consolidate stockpiles and build the capacity of their law enforcement, industry and technical personnel to protect them. The summit communiqué also calls for sharing the best practices and increasing financial support and expertise to help the International Atomic Energy Agency "develop nuclear security guidelines and to provide advice for its member states on how to implement them."

At the same time, Holgate said, the communiqué is "making sure that the security measures do not prevent countries from enjoying the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy."

The communiqué balances security concerns with continued national sovereignty over nuclear materials. Samore said an outright enforcement regime is "not attainable" and would distract from the more urgent and immediate need to actually secure the materials.

The agreement relies on cooperative mechanisms, as well as countries' "self-interest in securing nuclear material and avoiding terrorism," he said.

Rhodes said "broad collective action and global action" are needed to make pro-

gress, "and it's also going to take the intensive efforts of leaders focusing on this and ... holding their own governments accountable."

The past two days saw national ( <http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2010/April/20100413153843esnamfuak0.2951624.html> ) commitments ( <http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2010/April/20100412164953esnamfuak0.5831262.html> ) on the part of many of the participants, such as getting rid of their HEU and plutonium, converting their research reactors to use low-enriched uranium, supporting international organizations and mechanisms, and investing in education centers to help develop better safety standards and exchange best practices.

These commitments "illustrated precisely the kind of actions that we'd like to see that are embedded in the work plan," Rhodes said.

On April 13, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Enrique Taiana signed a Megaports Agreement that will help prevent the smuggling of nuclear materials at the Port of Buenos Aires. The United States will cooperate with Argentine customs to install radiation-detection equipment and provide port personnel with training and technical support.

The initiative now extends to 30 ports around the world and "aims to strengthen the capacity of governments to deter, detect and interdict illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials transiting the global shipping system," Clinton said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

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## Global Leaders Endorse Securing of All Nuclear Material by 2014

**By Stephen Kaufman**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — Following two days of meetings in Washington, leaders from around the world agreed to take tangible and meaningful steps to secure the world's nuclear materials.

President Obama, who initiated the global effort in a speech in Prague in April 2009 ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/April/20090406115740eaifas0.9701763.html> ), called the collective agreement “a testament to what is possible” in multi-lateral partnership.

Speaking at the conclusion of the Nuclear Security Summit April 13, Obama said, “We have made real progress in building a safer world.”

All the participating countries now have “a shared understanding of the risk” that nuclear materials could fall into the hands of terrorist organizations and be used to produce a weapon, he said.

The summit participants also endorsed the president's goal of securing all vulnerable nuclear material within four years, which Obama described as an ambitious goal, but one that can be achieved.

“The urgency of the threat and the catastrophic consequences of even a single act of nuclear terrorism demand an effort that is at once bold and pragmatic,” he said.

The participating countries also unanimously reaffirmed their responsibility to safeguard and secure all nuclear materials and facilities under their control and committed themselves to “a sustained, effective program of international cooperation on national security,” the president said.

“We call on other nations to join us,” Obama said.

For its part, the United States will strengthen its own nuclear facilities and invite the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to review security measures. The president said the United States also has joined Canada's appeal for the international community to commit \$10 billion to strengthening nuclear security around the world.

The next Nuclear Security Summit will be held in Seoul in 2012, and the president thanked Korean President Lee Myung-bak for his country's willingness to host the gathering.

According to the text of the summit communiqué released April 13, all participating nations and international organizations agreed to a series of cooperative measures aimed at prioritizing the protection of nuclear material within their countries and in transport, and acknowledged the need to build greater capacity for nuclear security around the world.

The communiqué reaffirmed support for pre-existing international agreements dealing with the safety and handling of nuclear material. Along with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540, which obliges countries to take effective measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) represents a legally binding instrument to protect nuclear material. It also establishes measures related to the prevention of outside seizure, the detection of material in transit and the punishment of nuclear material offenses.

The summit's April 13 work plan calls on more countries to ratify the CPPNM's 2005 amendment, which places legal

requirements on signatories to protect their nuclear facilities and material and expands cooperation in recovering stolen material. The amendment, which the work plan describes as “vitaly important for nuclear security,” must be ratified by two-thirds of the 142 CPPNM signatories before going into force.

In addition, the participating nations cited the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which the work plan describes as a key part of preventing terrorists from getting weapons of mass destruction as it offers definitions, identifies potential targets and specifies rules for extraditing or prosecuting violators.

The work plan encourages all participants to make use of resources provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including the agency's expertise on security capacity building, technical guidance and training programs.

In his remarks, President Obama said it had become clear during the summit discussions that “we do not need lots of new institutions and layers of bureaucracy.”

Instead, the international community needs to “strengthen the institutions and partnerships that we already have and make them more effective,” he said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

## Obama Meets with African Leaders in Advance of Nuclear Summit

By Charles W. Corey  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — President Obama met separately with South African President Jacob Zuma and Nigeria's acting president, Goodluck Jonathan, April 11 on the eve of the Nuclear Security Summit, which both leaders were in Washington to attend.

Obama praised South Africa for its historical leadership in promoting nuclear security and nonproliferation and for dismantling its own nuclear program. In his meeting with Jonathan, Obama stressed the importance of the U.S.-Nigeria relationship.

In remarks following his meeting with Zuma, Obama told reporters, "I wanted to especially single out South Africa because South Africa is singular in having had a nuclear weapon program, had moved forward on it, and then decided this was not the right path; dismantled it; and has been a strong, effective leader in the international community around nonproliferation issues."

For taking such action, he said, "South Africa has special standing in being a moral leader on this issue. I wanted to publicly compliment President Zuma and his administration for the leadership they've shown. And we are looking forward toward the possibility of them helping to guide other countries down a similar direction of nonproliferation," Obama told reporters.

A White House summary of the meeting said Obama and Zuma also discussed the Iranian nuclear issue and a broad array of other topics, including U.S. assistance to South Africa in combating HIV/AIDS, climate change and clean energy, the situa-

tion in neighboring Zimbabwe, and the 2010 World Cup hosted by South Africa.

That same day, Obama held talks with acting Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan. Obama expressed his appreciation for Nigeria's participation in the Nuclear

for electoral reform.

The two-day summit is being attended by leaders from almost 50 nations, who are meeting in Washington as part of international efforts ( <http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec->



*President Obama met with acting Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, left, on April 11.*

Security Summit and the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual importance, including security and efforts to combat terrorism, according to a White House statement.

At their meeting, Obama and Jonathan repeated the importance of the U.S.-Nigeria relationship, respect for constitutional law and processes, human rights, promotion of economic development and resolving internal conflicts, according to the White House statement. Obama urged Jonathan to use his tenure to make historic and tangible progress in strengthening the Nigerian government's commitment to countering corruption, and said the United States would support Jonathan in realizing his public promise

english/2010/April/20100409124000dmslahrellek0.6164972.html ) to reduce nuclear stockpiles and to keep nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists or rogue states.

The meeting is the largest gathering of world leaders called by an American president since Franklin D. Roosevelt organized the 1945 meeting in San Francisco that created the United Nations.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*



# Nuclear Weapons Are Threat to All Nations

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Nuclear weapons are not just an issue for the United States and Russia, they are a threat to the common security of all nations, says President Obama.

On April 12, leaders from 50 nations and international organizations gather in Washington to discuss steps to secure vulnerable nuclear weapons and the means to make them. It is the culmination of nine days of nuclear diplomacy that began with the United States issuing a revamped nuclear strategy April 6 and the signing of a new arms-reduction treaty between the United States and Russia April 8 at ceremonies in Prague.

“A nuclear weapon in the hands of a terrorist is a danger to people everywhere — from Moscow to New York, from the cities of Europe to South Asia,” Obama said while in Prague for the historic signing of the New START Treaty with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The treaty aims to reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals by approximately 30 percent to 1,550 warheads each, lessening tensions and the chances of them ever being used in a war.

“The spread of nuclear weapons to more states is also an unacceptable risk to global security — raising the specter of arms races from the Middle East to East Asia,” Obama added.

The president first proposed the summit in an April 2009 speech in Prague where he outlined his vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear threats. Obama called for a new international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world, break up black markets, detect and intercept materials in transit, and use financial tools to disrupt illicit trade in nuclear materials and technologies.



*President Obama, left, at a press conference with Russian President Medvedev April 8 after they signed a new arms-control treaty.*

In a White House briefing April 9, Ben Rhodes, the deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, told reporters that leaders and representatives from 50 nations and international organizations will attend the two-day summit in Washington April 12–13.

“Obviously, no one nation is capable of taking the actions necessary to secure vulnerable nuclear materials that are in many different countries and in many different regions of the world,” Rhodes said. “Similarly, no one nation is capable of pursuing the kind of nuclear security measures that can prevent the illicit transit of those types of materials.”

“So this is an unprecedented gathering of nations to address this issue,” Rhodes said.

They include Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland,

South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and Vietnam.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Yukiya Amano and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy will also attend representing their organizations, Rhodes said.

The president is planning bilateral meetings beginning April 11 with some of the world leaders attending the summit, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. Those include Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan; Chinese President Hu Jintao; Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammad Najib bin Abdul Razak; Pakistan Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani; South African President Jacob Zuma; and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

# Al-Qaida Has Sought Nuclear Weapons for 15 Years

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — As the international community meets with the goal of safeguarding the world's nuclear materials, an Obama administration official warns that the world faces a determined enemy in the form of al-Qaida, which is actively seeking a nuclear device, and that international criminals are keenly aware of how much the organization is willing to pay to acquire it.

"The ability to obtain a nuclear weapon and to use it is the ultimate and most prized goal of terrorist groups," said John Brennan, who is the president's assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism.

Speaking at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington April 12, Brennan said there is "indisputable evidence that dozens of terrorist groups have actively sought some type of weapon of mass effect," including biological and chemical weapons.

The most devastating weapon with the longest-lasting effects is a nuclear device, he said. Al-Qaida "has been engaged in the effort to acquire a nuclear weapon for over 15 years, and its interest remains strong today," Brennan said.

If al-Qaida is successful, it "would have the ability not only to threaten our security and world order in an unprecedented manner, but also to kill and injure many thousands of innocent men, women and children, which is al-Qaida's sole agenda," he said. Brennan cited 1994 court testimony by Jamal al-Fadl that the organization was seeking to acquire uranium from Sudan. This, he said, is supported by "other types of information we have about ... the people and their efforts to acquire these materials." There are individuals within al-Qaida



*Al-Qaida's determination to acquire a nuclear weapon makes the threat of nuclear terrorism a reality.*

who have been given the responsibility of obtaining nuclear material, he said.

Compounding the risk from al-Qaida's determination are international criminal syndicates and gangs that "are keenly aware of the strong interest of terrorist groups to acquire fissile material, which has prompted these criminals to pursue nuclear materials for their own personal gain," Brennan said.

Those types of criminal elements exist all over the world, he added, and while they have succeeded in scamming al-Qaida with fake materials such as "red mercury," the terrorists have not been deterred in their quest.

Brennan said there is no indication the organization currently has a nuclear capability or weapons, despite claims by some of its senior members, but the world must work together to deny the terrorist group the capability.

"They have already said publicly that if they acquired ... that type of weapons capability, that they would use it," Brennan said. "Our future and the future of generations yet to come depend on our ability to safeguard these materials and expertise."

The Nuclear Security Summit is addressing nuclear-material vulnerabilities that need to be eliminated, and Brennan said he expects a continual international effort in the years to come. "This is not just a one-time event," he said.

In addition, expanded use of nuclear energy around the world will increase the amount of nuclear byproducts and expertise that are being targeted.

"This is why we want to make sure that we're able to work with all of the countries of the world so they can do their part," Brennan said. ♦

# New Nuclear Arms Reduction Pact Requires U.S. Senate Approval

By Bridget Hunter  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The new nuclear weapons reduction treaty signed by President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev April 8 will replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the 2002 Moscow Treaty, but only if the legislative branches of both governments endorse the agreement.

Leaders in the Russian parliament have indicated they do not anticipate a vote until the fall session. The Russian system of government, like that of the United States, has two chambers within its parliament. In Russia, both chambers will need to endorse the treaty.

In the United States, only the U.S. Senate reviews and consents to treaties, in a process that dates back to the earliest days of U.S. democracy.

Article II, section 2 of the U.S. Constitution ( <http://www.america.gov/constitution.html> ) states the president “shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur.” This provision is one example of the system of checks and balances ( <http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2008/January/20071116173344eaifas0.9917719.html> ) that is the cornerstone of U.S. democracy.

The Constitution's framers gave the Senate a share in treaty powers to check presidential power, to give the president the benefit of the Senate's advice and counsel, and to safeguard the sover-

eignty of the states by giving each state an equal vote in the treaty-making process. This requirement helps ensure treaties entered into by the United States reflect a broad national consensus.

The need for a two-thirds majority also means any treaty must have some measure of bipartisan support to be approved

figure to many senators. Washington subsequently decided he would send to the Senate communications regarding treaties only in writing, setting a precedent all his successors have followed.

Technically, the Senate does not ratify treaties — ratification takes place when the instruments of ratification are for-



*Representatives of the United States and Spain exchanging ratifications for a peace treaty at the White House, April 15, 1899.*

because it is very unusual for one U.S. political party to control that many votes.

The first practical application of this constitutional provision came on August 22, 1789, when President George Washington and Secretary of War Henry Knox presented the Senate with a series of questions relating to treaties with various Indian tribes. The Senate voted to refer these to a committee rather than debate the issue in the presence of the president, who was an awe-inspiring

figure to many senators. Washington subsequently decided he would send to the Senate communications regarding treaties only in writing, setting a precedent all his successors have followed.

## THE SENATE'S OPTIONS

The Senate has rejected relatively few of the hundreds of treaties it has considered, but not all treaties negotiated by the executive branch make it to the Senate floor for a vote. Some “die” (fail to be reported) in committee; others are with-

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## New Nuclear Arms Reduction Pact Requires U.S. Senate Approval . . .

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drawn by the president rather than face defeat in a Senate vote.

When a treaty is submitted to the Senate for approval, the Senate has several options:

It may approve or reject the treaty as submitted.

It may approve the treaty conditionally by including amendments to the text of the treaty, reservations, understandings, interpretations, declarations or other statements in the resolution.

It may decline to act, leaving the treaty pending in the Senate until the president withdraws it.

If the Senate grants conditional approval, the president and the other countries that are parties to the treaty then must decide whether to accept the conditions, renegotiate the provisions or abandon the treaty.

Conditional approvals sometimes can have the same effect as rejection. Of the treaties approved by the Senate with amendments, reservations, understandings or interpretations, 43 never entered into force because the Senate's conditions were unacceptable to either the president or the other country or coun-

tries party to the treaty.

When the Senate consents to ratification, the instrument of ratification is signed and deposited in the National Archives by the president.

During its first 200 years, the Senate approved more than 1,500 treaties — about 90 percent of those submitted. As of March 2010, only 21 treaties have been rejected by a Senate vote, including, most recently, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty on October 13, 1999. A more common form of rejection is failure to act: Treaties the Senate leadership deems lack sufficient support are not brought to a vote.

Treaties can remain in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for extended periods because — unlike pending legislation, which dies at the end of a Congress — treaties can carry over from one Congress to the next. In U.S. history, 85 treaties have been withdrawn from the Senate for lack of action.

### **FUTURE OF NEW ARMS REDUCTION TREATY**

The treaty signed April 8 seems unlikely to languish in committee. Both the chairman of the Senate Foreign Committee and its ranking Republican member have

expressed strong support.

"Today's signing of the START treaty strengthens our security while affirming the vital role the nuclear arsenal plays in our nation's defense," Chairman John Kerry (Democrat) said April 8. "I will work closely with Senator Lugar and our colleagues to see that this historic treaty is ratified this year."

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee's top-ranking Republican, Senator Richard Lugar, seems equally eager to get to work.

"I commend the U.S. and Russian delegations for months of dedicated effort," he said. "I also look forward to working with Chairman Kerry to begin scheduling hearings and briefings for the Foreign Relations Committee so that we can work quickly to achieve ratification of the new treaty."

"The Senate has a long history of approving strategic arms control treaties by overwhelming margins and I am confident we will renew that spirit of cooperation and bipartisan tradition on arms control and national security to approve ratification of this vital treaty," concluded Kerry. "This is too important to delay." ♦

## Assistant Secretary Carson Travels to Africa . . .

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head to Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, where he has requested meetings with President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Foreign Minister Basile Ikouébé and members of the political opposition. He will also confer with embassy staff about the U.S. engagement plan for the Republic of the Congo.

In Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Carson has requested

meetings with President Joseph Kabila, Foreign Minister Alexis Thambwe Mwamba and various other senior DRC officials. In addition to meeting with embassy staff on U.S. engagement in the DRC, he will travel to Kisangani to visit a U.S.-funded training mission for a Congolese light infantry battalion.

The mission is a collaboration between the State Department and the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) to further the professionalization of the Congolese mili-

tary. Upon his return to Kinshasa, Carson will participate in a signing ceremony for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Partnership Framework with Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito before departing the country.

Carson will conclude his trip in London, where he has a meeting scheduled with his counterpart in the Foreign Office. He will also participate in a round-table discussion with press. ♦



## First Lady Visits Haiti to Assess Damages, Needs

**Washington** — First lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the vice president, visited the earthquake-stricken Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, April 13 to assess recovery and reconstruction efforts, and also to meet with children in several relief areas.

The White House said in a brief announcement that Obama and Biden took a U.S. Army helicopter tour of the capital, where more than a million people are living in tents and under tarps in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck in January. Their visit to the island nation had been kept secret until they arrived in midmorning.

"It's powerful. The devastation is definitely powerful," Obama said after the aerial tour.

"First lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden are visiting Haiti to underscore to the Haitian people and the Haitian government the enduring U.S. commitment to help Haiti recover and rebuild, especially as we enter the rainy and hurricane seasons, and to thank the women and men across the whole of the U.S. government for their extraordinary efforts in Haiti during the past three months," the White House announcement said, "and reach out to the U.N. and international relief communities in recognition of the truly global effort underway to help Haiti."

Their visit to the Caribbean nation comes one day after Haitians marked the three-month anniversary of the January 12 earthquake that struck the capital and four smaller southern towns, killing an estimated 230,000 people and displacing more than a million others.

After their helicopter tour, Obama and Biden, a professor at a Northern Virginia community college outside of Washing-

ton, were greeted by Haitian President René Préval and first lady Elisabeth Débrosse Delatour Préval.

Afterward, Obama and Biden were taken by bus to a site behind Le Musée d'Art Haïtien, where the Haitian first lady has set up a children's safe area with help from internationally known Haitian artist and painter Philippe Dodard, according

to Haitian officials, Plas Timoun, "The Children's Place," was developed by Préval, Dodard, and a group of psychologists, educators and politicians.

Six- to 10-year-old children living in tent compounds receive mental health services, including art and music therapy, and access to sports, food and water. Activities take place in buses donated by



*First lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden (left) meet with Haitian children affected by the January 12 earthquake.*

ton to news reports. The program, "Plas Timoun" or The Children's Place, was set up by Haiti's first lady as a place where Haitian artists, including Dodard, work with children on art projects as part of a post-earthquake therapy program. According to Haitian officials, approximately 900 children participate in the program and 2,000 are fed daily.

Obama and Biden were greeted by dozens of children, who sang songs and performed a brief play for them. They spoke with the children and Mrs. Préval provided translation.

the Dominican Republic. The Haitian Ministry of Education is working to bring this program to other school communities.

The earthquake damaged or destroyed 90 percent of the schools in the Port-au-Prince area and 40 percent in surrounding areas. Before the earthquake, fewer than half of school-age children attended school in Haiti, and only 20 percent of primary-age students were enrolled in public schools.

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## U.S., Nigeria Pledge Greater Cooperation

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The United States and Nigeria have launched an initiative aimed at fostering greater cooperation between the two nations and assisting in governance, regional cooperation and development, energy, and food security and agricultural development.

"Today, we are taking a concrete step forward that will strengthen and deepen the partnership between our two nations," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said at joint press conference with Nigerian Secretary to the Government of the Federation Yayale Ahmed in Washington April 6. "And we hope it will support the aspirations of the Nigerian people for a peaceful, prosperous, stable, democratic future."

The U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission (BNC) initiative was signed by Clinton and Ahmed in Washington April 6. The United States establishes binational commissions with strategic partners as collaborative forums aimed at tangible and measurable progress on issues considered critical to shared goals, the State Department says.

"Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation, its largest contributor of peacekeepers, a significant trading partner of the United States, its largest producer of oil, and the largest recipient of direct investment by the American private sector in sub-Saharan Africa," Clinton said during the briefing.

Clinton outlined four areas where working groups established under the initiative will focus:

Good governance and transparency — considered essential to Nigeria's democracy and its prosperity.

Regional cooperation and development — to improve conditions in the oil-rich



*Secretary of State Clinton says the initiative will deepen the U.S. - Nigeria partnership.*

Niger Delta region with a specific emphasis on broad collaboration on security and counterterrorism.

Energy reform and investment — while Nigeria has abundant oil, natural gas and other natural resources, it lacks an effective electrical system to support the growing demands of the nation.

Food security and agricultural development — a program to provide Nigerian farmers with modern tools and methods of farming to feed the nation and to lift rural families out of poverty.

Secretary Ahmed thanked the United States for its support, but also stressed that Nigeria, which has undergone a period of uncertainty due to the extended absence of President Umaru Yar'Adua because of a prolonged illness, is a strong democracy committed to progress for its people.

"It is very important to us at this point of our history, when we are able, to show as a nation that we are capable of survival," Ahmed said at the joint press conference. "You have highlighted some of the challenges that we face, but we believe they are not insurmountable be-

cause we are open to criticism."

Clinton said Nigeria soon will celebrate 50 years of independence and will hold an election in 2011.

"Nigeria, like many countries, must look to the future, and how to create conditions that will protect the gains that independence brought [and] guard against ongoing and serious threats to its progress," she said.

### BINATIONAL COMMISSION

U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Robin Renée Sanders told reporters at a Washington Foreign Press Center briefing April 7 that the binational commission serves to strengthen democratic institutions essential to Nigeria's election in 2011, and to addressing energy insufficiencies, as well as food security and development in the Niger Delta.

"We will also support Nigeria's efforts to strengthen its democracy, civil society and fight corruption," Sanders said.

Nigerian Ambassador to the United States Adebawale Ibidapo Adefuye, speaking at the same briefing, said this commission and the four major areas it addresses coincide with Nigeria's Vision 20–2020. The 20–2020 initiative is a drive to become one of the 20 most industrialized and advanced nations in the world by 2020, Adefuye said.

"By signing the BNC agreement, the United States government has demonstrated its genuine concern with aspirations of Nigerians at every level, both in the public and the private sector," Adefuye said. "We are joint partners in the search for global peace and security."

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

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## South Africa's Women Justices Inspire Audiences Worldwide

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Two years after its initial release, the documentary film *Courting Justice* ( <http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c740.shtml> ) continues to inspire audiences around the world with its story of South African women who fought against all odds to win judge-ships in the country's highest courts.

The film looks at seven women — but most especially the black women — who never gave up hope during the terrible years of apartheid and now make up some 18 percent of South Africa's judiciary. Among the black African women justices highlighted in the film are Yvonne Mokgoro, Bess Nkabinde, Mandisa Maya and Pat Goliath. Most came from humble beginnings and had to overcome severe prejudice because of their gender as well as their race.

The documentary, by American filmmaker Ruth B. Cowan, has been shown worldwide and has won numerous accolades, including the Audience Award of the Durban International Film Festival in South Africa. It has been shown to South Africa's Parliament and to South African children in at least 60 schools, and has had three television airings by the South African Broadcasting Corporation. Teachers in New York City have urged that the film be shown in classrooms in all the districts in that school system, Cowan said. "The purpose is not to talk about South Africa," Cowan explained, "but to show them [the students] what they can do in their lives."

Audiences in Washington had an opportunity to view the documentary and meet Cowan, thanks to a special event hosted April 9 by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars ( <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> ). Introducing the film was Ambassador Melanne Verveer, U.S. ambassador-at-large for



*Yvonne Mokgoro, justice on South Africa's Constitutional Court.*

global women's issues. The stories of these women judges, Verveer said, make all who hear them realize "how one brings the human rights provisions of the [South African post-apartheid] constitution — and everything the constitution represents — to reality, and that is very powerful." This film's story, she said, "is about the great promise of human rights and judicial reform. And that can only take root and sprout and be nurtured where there are committed people in a democracy."

Cowan said she was awed by the strength of the women judges she got to know. "Those women were so strong," she said. She said some had trained and worked as magistrates during apartheid, while a few others made huge sacrifices to study law in the United States. Many black South Africans determined to advance their education were able to do so via a distance learning course offered by UNISA (University of South Africa, she said.

Cowan acknowledged that the path for women in South Africa, as in many other countries, is not easy. "There are many women who go to law school and graduate; they work in law firms for a while. But there is a huge dropout rate from the

profession — there is only so much people [women] are willing to take," Cowan said. On-the-job discrimination — both subtle and blatant — is common, she said; this is mentioned in the film by the women judges themselves.

Cowan has had her own battles with sexism. In the 1970s, she was an assistant professor of political science at one of the community colleges of the City University of New York. Although she was the only tenured woman in the department, she was denied promotion even as her male peers were advanced. She, along with other women in similar situations, filed a grievance against the college and won. She called the experience "transformative." With a new appreciation for women's rights, Cowan went on to complete a distinguished 30-year academic career. In 1990, she became the founding president of the board of directors of Pro Mujer ( <https://promujer.org/> ), an international women's development and microfinance organization that provides training and small startup loans to poor but aspiring women entrepreneurs.

Cowan also serves on the board for the Global Partnership for Afghanistan ( <http://www.gpfa.org/> ) (GPFA), a non-profit, nongovernmental organization that provides guidance to rural Afghan men and women on how to develop sustainable farm enterprises. Her experience with Pro Mujer and GPFA convinced her of the overriding importance of good governance. South Africa's new post-apartheid constitution caught her attention, as did the women who were beginning to win appointments to the high courts in that country. After traveling to South Africa to study the courts, as well as the work of the South African Women's Legal Centre ( <http://www.wlce.co.za/> ), Cowan was inspired to tell the story of South Africa's female judges in a documentary. ♦



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## About the Earth Day Network with President Kathleen Rogers

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22 each year, marks the anniversary of the birth in 1970 of the modern environmental movement in the United States. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts. By April 22, 2000, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries. Today more than 1 billion people participate in Earth Day activities, making it the largest secular civic event in the world. The Earth Day Network, founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day, promotes environmental citizenship and year-round action worldwide.

**Q:** When did Earth Day move from the United States to nations around the world?

**Rogers:** Earth Day has been global since its inception but became truly global on its 20th anniversary in 1990. That year, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes, the organizer of the first Earth Day and chairman of Earth Day 2010, to step up again. This was in the lead up to the 1992 U.N. Earth Summit in Rio and environmental issues were entering the global consciousness. That year, Denis and the Earth Day Network mobilized 200 million people in 141 countries.

**Q:** How do you work with the international community?

**Rogers:** We have a dedicated international staff in Washington and in locations around the world, working with partner organizations. While we conduct aggressive partnership outreach, you would be astounded to see my inbox — I receive compelling messages every day from people around the world, describing their policy and advocacy work and how they would like to partner with us. We work to accommodate as many of



*Earth Day Network President Kathleen Rogers.*

these requests as possible, but the world's eagerness to take collaborative action to solve environmental issues is obvious and overwhelming.

**Q:** Describe some of your major international programs and activities.

**Rogers:** First, let me say that the State Department has been absolutely essential in helping Earth Day Network plan our programs abroad. Some of the biggest Earth Day events this year are taking place in India and China, where we are collaborating directly with the U.S. embassies in Delhi and Beijing and with four or five consulates in each country. In India, the American Cultural Centers across the country will host Earth Day events, and in China the State Department is using materials from our Education Department to teach university students about environmental issues and the history of Earth Day.

We have also partnered with the King-

dom of Morocco to organize events surrounding the presentation of their National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development. Morocco is the first African, Muslim and Arab nation to commit, at the highest levels of government, to carry out a national event in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

We also have events planned with partners in Buenos Aires, Kolkata, Barcelona and Tokyo, to name a few. Earth Day remains truly global!

**Q:** What's next for the Earth Day Network?

**Rogers:** Earth Day Network plans to build on the connections we have made this year, to deepen and broaden the scope of our activities and the mission of Earth Day. For instance, our Global Day of Conversation program has strengthened our relationship with 290 mayors and locally elected officials in more than 39 countries. We are working with more than 1,500 NGOs worldwide on climate change issues and building partnerships in many countries to create green schools. We are finishing up plans for a global conference on women and climate to be held in Washington. We are also planting 1 million trees around the world in partnership with James Cameron's film Avatar and Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, and this vast undertaking will endure well after Earth Day. Domestically, we will continue to push for comprehensive legislation to confront climate change and to lay the foundation for a green economy.

We are extremely excited to see what we as an organization, and we as a global movement, can all accomplish in the next 40 years.

Learn more about the Earth Day Network ( <http://www.earthday.net/?skip=1> ). ♦



## Energy Ministers Meet to Partner on Climate Change

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Science Writer

**Washington** - More than 30 energy ministers and delegation leaders from across the Western Hemisphere will meet April 15–16 to deepen cooperation on energy security, alternative energy resources and confronting the effects of global climate change.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Steven Chu is hosting the Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas ( <http://www.iamericas.org/ministerial/> ). Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will give a keynote address April 15 at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), where attendees will meet with several hundred representatives from civil society, businesses, nongovernmental organizations and others to work together on the partnership's objectives.

The meeting supports the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas ( [http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/](http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/March/20100311170548xjsnommis0.3359339.html)

[March/20100311170548xjsnommis0.3359339.html](http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/March/20100311170548xjsnommis0.3359339.html) ) (ECPA), which was formed at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in April 2009.

On April 16, the energy ministers will gather at the Organization of American States (OAS). Over both days, leaders will discuss ongoing and new initiatives under ECPA and identify ways to expand cooperation to promote low-carbon economic growth, improve energy security and reduce energy poverty.

"The overarching goal of ECPA is to foster partnerships, and I underscore the word partnerships, among governments,



*Employees of Bolivia's state energy company fill tanks of liquefied natural gas at a plant in El Alto.*

industry and civil society, to promote clean energy projects and support economic growth," David Sandalow, DOE assistant secretary for policy and international affairs, said at an April 6 briefing.

"Brazil thinks ECPA is an exceptional opportunity for fruitful exchange and debate on sustainable development," said Pompeu Andreucci Neto, minister-counselor for economic affairs at the Embassy of Brazil in Washington. "Brazil believes that a broad exchange of experience among various countries in this area is an innovative avenue for cooperation ? a very important one."

### CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

In April 2009, at the Fifth Summit of the Americas ( <http://www.america.gov/summit-america.html> ), held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, President Obama invited all countries of the Western Hemisphere to join in an energy and climate partnership. ECPA is a voluntary mechanism through which all Western Hemisphere governments may lead multicountry energy initiatives.

Regional institutions such as the OAS, the IDB and the Latin American Energy Organization, multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, the private sector, civil society and academia were also encouraged to create clean-energy partnerships.

In June 2009, the U.S. and Peruvian governments and the Institute of the Americas hosted the Americas Energy and Climate Symposium in Lima, Peru. There, officials identified opportunities for

deeper partnerships under ECPA and governments proposed new initiatives.

Chu and Peruvian Energy Minister Pedro Sánchez announced the creation of an Energy Efficiency Center in Lima. The United States announced a Low Carbon Communities of the Americas initiative and invited proposals to receive U.S. technical assistance on clean energy and energy-efficiency projects. Andre Amado, Brazilian undersecretary for high technology and energy, offered to lead an ECPA initiative to promote sustainable urban planning and development. Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica and Mexico have

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Telling America's story

**First Lady Visits Haiti to Assess Damages, Needs . . .**

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**RECONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY**

In March at a Haiti donors' conference at the United Nations, international donors pledged \$9.9 billion in humanitarian assistance to help with recovery and reconstruction of the island. That includes more than \$5.3 billion for the first two years of initial construction. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told donors that he envisions a "wholesale national renewal" for the Haitian people. He said reconstruction must move in tandem with emergency relief and urged donors to provide further support to the revised humanitarian appeal for Haiti.

International development experts have said that it could take more than a decade to complete the full reconstruction of Haiti. One of the key factors in Haiti's recovery is the reconstruction of Port-au-Prince, which is the nation's political and financial center.

Obama and Biden stopped in Port-au-Prince for a five-hour visit en route to an April 13-15 visit to Mexico.

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since offered to lead ECPA initiatives or participate in projects.

**WORKING AS PARTNERS**

With one of the initiatives under way, the Low Carbon Communities program, DOE will partner with Costa Rica, Peru, Colombia, Dominica and other Caribbean nations to provide technical assistance and funding to develop building standards and adopt modern urban planning strategies, including transit-oriented development, to create low-carbon communities.

**Other initiatives include:**

Colombia/Caribbean: Development of transformative energy programs and policies.

Brazil: Promotion of sustainable urban development and planning.

Colombia: Strengthening electrical interconnections in the Andean region, Chile and Panama.

Region-wide: Peru-led clean energy technology centers that include a regional Energy-Efficiency Center, a Mexico-supported regional Wind Research Center, a Chilean regional Renewable Energy Center, a Costa Rican Energy-Efficiency Center with the nongovernmental environmental group the Natural Resources Defense Council, a Brazilian Biomass Center, and an El Salvador Geothermal Center established with support from the IDB and DOE.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency is promoting the Clean Energy Exchange Program by inviting nearly 50 Latin American and Caribbean energy officials on six reverse trade missions ? trade events in which international officials are brought to the United States to meet U.S. companies and view their products.

"For the United States, this hemisphere remains critical to energy security," David Goldwyn, the Department of State's international energy coordinator, said April 6. "Three of our top suppliers of oil come from this hemisphere, two of our top suppliers of gas ? Canada for piped gas, Trinidad and Tobago for [liquid natural gas] imports ? come from this hemisphere. Electricity comes to this country from hydropower and from nuclear power from other countries. Two of the major biofuel producers in the world, the United States and Brazil, come from this hemisphere. So for us, for energy security, this hemisphere matters enormously."

He added: "This hemisphere [also] matters because they are our friends, our allies, our major trading partners and kinsmen to probably more than a third of our population." ♦